

Maintaining Local Control & Public Safety A Community Conversation



Why are we here?

- Nothing is more important to the County than community safety.
 - We want to hear from as many residents as possible about their perspectives and priorities for public safety in Merced County amid millions in state takeaways and unfunded mandates.



State mandates and local control

- Sacramento has taken millions of dollars from Merced County taxpayers.
- The State passes taxes, the County never receives an adequate share of those funds for local essential public safety services.

We need to ensure local control over local funds for OUR local needs.



How have state policies affected public safety in Merced County?

State policies have:

- Put more criminal offenders back on our streets
- Forced the early release of violent criminals back into the community

Our sheriff's department needs the tools required to:

- Maintain gang prevention & investigation programs
- Retain and recruit qualified deputies
- Keep Merced County safe



Have emergency response times increased?

Merced County Sheriff's Office receive over **68,000 calls** per year.

The average response time is now far slower than the national average, potentially jeopardizing lives.

We need to ensure that every emergency call gets a timely response.



Community Priorities

In a recent Community Issues Survey, residents identified their local top priorities.



- Preventing violent crime
- Preventing early release of violent criminals into the community
- Protecting and maintaining 911 sheriff response times



We Need to Hear From You

- Understanding the community's priorities is a critical part of our responsible planning process.
- We are engaging the community to continue to hear YOUR priorities.
- The most important input into this process comes from YOU.



Join the Conversation!

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| <p>We Need Your Feedback!</p> | <p>Complete our Community Feedback Form TODAY—let us know your priorities!</p> |
| <p>Your Community</p> | <p>Do you belong to other organizations that need this presentation? Let us know!</p> |
| <p>Stay Informed</p> | <p>Stay informed, complete the Feedback Form and share with your neighbors at: countyofmerced.com/publicsafetyurvey</p> |